

Price
List

Following is a list of prices for Public Land Survey Office (PLSO) products. Please contact the PLSO office at (360) 902-1190 if you have questions.

Public Land Survey Office
Located on the third floor of the Natural Resources Building in Olympia:

1111 Washington St. SE
PO Box 47060
Olympia, WA 98504-7060
(360) 902-1190
Fax (360) 902-1191

Website: www.dnr.wa.gov
and go to the 'Site Map,' then look for 'Public Land Survey Office' in the 'Business with DNR' section.

Cadastral Survey Information per Sheet

- ▶ GLO Plats (11"x17") \$5
- ▶ Surveys (11"x17")..... \$5
- ▶ Large-size plots of the above (18"x24") \$7
- ▶ GLO Notes, Land Corner Recoveries \$1

Other

- ▶ Survey Research Internet access available.
(Please call for details)
- ▶ Images on CD or disk (Please call for details)
- ▶ Fax charges (additional per sheet) \$1
(\$5 minimum)
- ▶ Certification (extra per order) \$5
Prices subject to change without notice.
Sales tax will be added.

Available at No Charge*

- ▶ Title 58 RCW — Boundaries and Plats
- ▶ WAC 332-130 — Survey Standards
- ▶ Corner Removal Permit form
- ▶ Land Corner Record form

*Can be downloaded from the PLSO website.



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands

COVER PHOTOS: FRANK FISCHER (BELOW) AND LUIS PRADO (ABOVE)

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

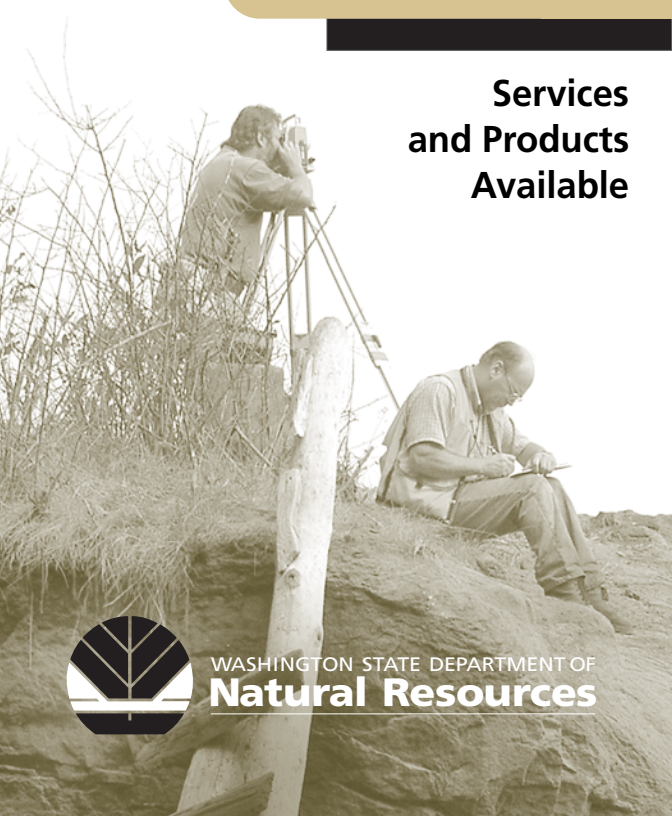


Government
Land Office maps and
field notes are available
for research.

The Public Land Survey Office
works to protect and preserve land boundary
survey information.

Public
Land Survey
Office

Services
and Products
Available



The Public Land Survey Office (PLSO) was created in 1951 to maintain a repository of statewide land survey records. The PLSO scans records filed with the county auditors and unrecorded survey records acquired from various sources and provides research services for these records.

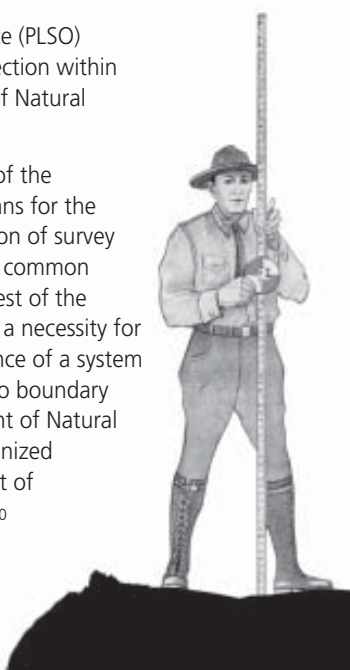
Over 340,000 records from around the state have been scanned and indexed and are available to the public.

STRUCTURE AND PURPOSE

The Public Land Survey Office (PLSO) is part of the Land Survey Section within Washington's Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

It is the responsibility of the state to provide a means for the identification and preservation of survey points for the description of common land boundaries in the interest of the people of the state. There is a necessity for the adoption and maintenance of a system of permanent reference as to boundary monuments. The Department of Natural Resources shall be the recognized agency for the establishment of this system.

RCW 58.24.010



DUTIES

The Public Land Survey Office:

- ▶ Collects, preserves and indexes survey records.
- ▶ Establishes industry standards of accuracy and methods of procedure; issues permits for the removal of survey monuments.
- ▶ Cooperates with and advises the public regarding the recovery and monumentation of section corners and other land boundary marks.
- ▶ Facilitates and encourages the use of the geodetic network.

These functions shorten time spent in research, reduce the likelihood of conflicts between surveyors about corner positions, and reduce the chance of boundary disputes between landowners.

REMOVAL OF SURVEY MARKERS

When a survey marker must be removed, either temporarily or permanently, the professional surveyor involved must apply to the PLSO prior to beginning fieldwork.

The application must show the proposed method of referencing and/or reestablishing the monument.

Under extraordinary circumstances, oral permission may be granted pending the issuance of the written permit. This system provides public record of changes that occur to survey monuments.

Need for a Repository



HISTORY

Due to the long history of land transfers tied to the monumentation placed by the U.S. General Land Office (GLO), today's surveyor must try to relocate the original corner positions as closely as possible.

Since this process is dependent on the records of the GLO and subsequent surveyors, it is necessary to ensure that the records are available. This is a major undertaking. In Washington State, the GLO established nearly 250,000 corner positions. This activity created a large volume of records, which are in constant use today. To supplement this public record, in 1973, the legislature passed the Survey Recording Act (SRA). Since then an additional 325,000 survey maps have become available to the public. The PLSO has copies of these in its repository.

Historical Preservation

The records from surveys done since the GLO, but prior to 1973, are unlikely to be in an accessible public file. Some are in various forms of archival-type storage at museums, historical societies, state and federal archives, government offices, etc. Typically, these record groups are indexed by proper name, whereas the surveyor needs to access the material by legal description. Research of these records is difficult, time-consuming and subject to error.

Many other records are stored in basements, garages, attics or backrooms by private companies, retired surveyors or by relatives of the now-deceased surveyor.

- **Carl Morford, from Morford & Mowry, a survey firm in King County from 1917-1972.**
- ▲ **Mammoth bone, found in Benton County in 1959, occasionally used as monuments for section corners.**

As storage needs or ownerships change, the security of these historical records is jeopardized. There are incidents where relatives, not realizing the usefulness of the material in their possession, have thrown away valuable survey records.

Help Us Preserve Survey History

The PLSO is authorized to collect and preserve information obtained from surveys locating and establishing land monuments and boundaries.

If you are aware of records that might be thrown away, or are inadequately indexed for the survey researcher, please notify this office.

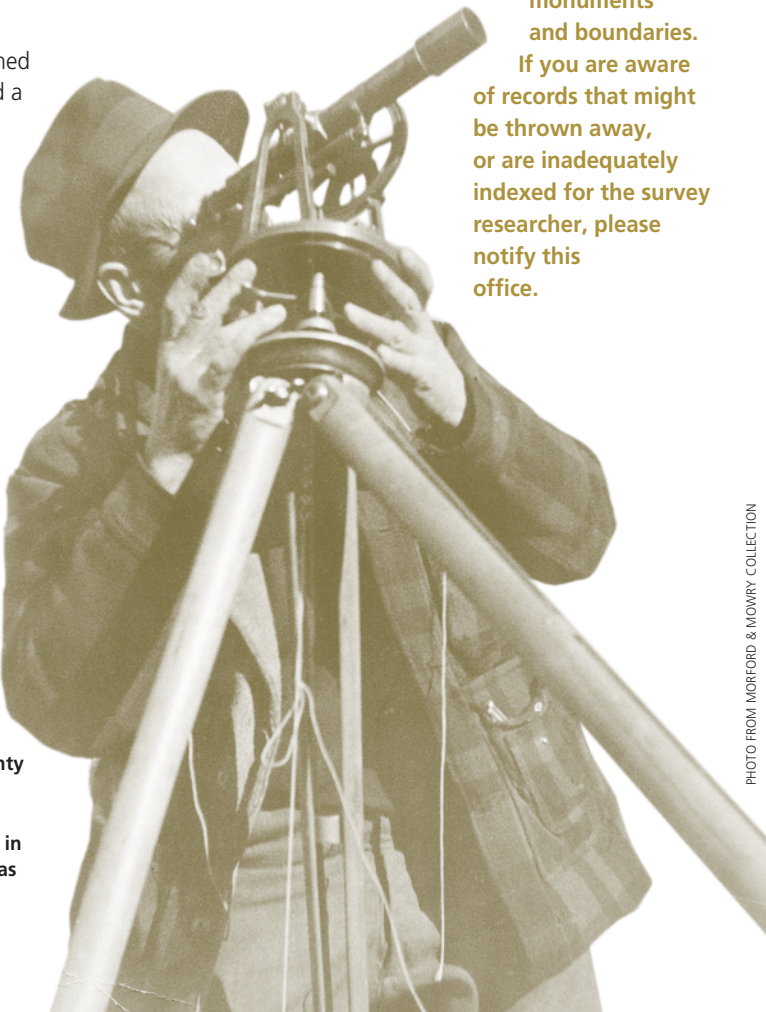


PHOTO FROM MORFORD & MOWRY COLLECTION

Survey Files

Following are a portion of materials available to the public in the PLSO office:

GOVERNMENT SURVEY RECORDS

Federal (GLO and BLM): Field notes and plats for the township, mineral, HES, DLC, Indian reservation, allotment, and military reservation surveys. This file contains the official and duplicate notes and plats, the triplicate plats and the tract books.

State: DNR, UW, the old Department of Conservation, Department of Wildlife.

Local: KCAS, Tacoma Hydroelectric Project, various county plats, unrecorded plats of King County.

Other: USBR, WSRS, USGS, NGS, USCE, BPA, CCC, International Boundary Commission, US Navy field books.

PRIVATE COMPANIES

► Black Diamond Historical Museum; Mason County Logging Co.; Mayr Brothers Logging Co.; Morford & Mowry, Murray & McCormick; Newell, Gossett & Walsh; Palmer Coking Coal Co.; Scott Paper Co.

► Indexes to Pope & Talbot; Charles McKay Anderson.

RAILROADS

► Milwaukee RR RAW plats and field books.
► RAW plats for all of the active and some inactive railroads in Washington.
► The NPRR Land Examination field books.
► The Everett and Monte Cristo RR
► The US Navy RR – Shelton to Bangor.

PRIVATE SURVEYORS

Allen, Jesse
Bell, Al
Bosworth, D.
Botch, Phillip
Chandler, Grant
Fisher, Ruskin
Gile, Henry
Henderson, J.L.
Hobson, Edward
Holmvig, Gary
McGillicudy, B.
McPherson, James
Meehan, John
Nicholson, L.A
Oyler, Kenneth
Peebles, W.G
Powell, Robert
Rixon, T.A.
Robertson, George
Sada, Horace
Wheeler, Guy

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

What information does the surveyor need from me?

- 1 Purpose and type of survey;
- 2 Your deed or a copy of it;
- 3 Any plats you have and information about the location of corners and lines;
- 4 Brief history of your ownership;
- 5 Information about disagreements over location of corners and appearance.

How much will a survey cost?

Most land surveyors charge by the hour, so land surveying cost is dependent upon many factors, such as the type of survey and equipment required, the availability of existing records and monuments, terrain, and the surveyor's knowledge of the area. Costs for copying and recording fees and other direct expenses are normally charged in addition, and the surveyor can usually furnish an estimate of the total cost. The lowest cost surveyor is not necessarily the best. The surveyor may request that you sign an agreement that includes a description of the work to be done, a lump sum price or hourly rate, and payment schedule.

How do I choose a surveyor?

Only a surveyor registered by the State is legally permitted to survey in the State of Washington. The Department of Licensing maintains a database of licensed professional land surveyors.

How does a survey best protect my interests?

Surveyors help ensure that there are no legal disputes over the location of buildings or other improvements. This professional service will cost less time, worry, and expense than the cost of moving a building, relocating improvements such as fences and septic tanks, or defending a lawsuit due to a land boundary controversy.

A land surveyor renders a technical and complex service. In case of controversy, the surveyor appears as your expert witness, if necessary. The surveyor assumes responsibility for the correctness and accuracy of work performed.